

1 (Marked-up version of the amended claims)

2 Please amend the claims as follows:

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4 --23. (Amended) An [A] improved time of flight mass spectrometer
5 comprising:

6 a multideflector for deflecting ions from an ion path
7 consisting of more than two bipolar deflection plates each
8 comprising a pair of metal plates separated from one another by
9 an insulator, said bipolar deflection plates being arranged
10 across said ion path in such a way that, during a given passage
11 through said multideflector, each of said ions must pass between
12 two and only two adjacent bipolar deflection plates; and

13 a detector for detecting said ions;

14 wherein each of said metal plates is energized to a
15 potential and the potentials of the metal plates of each pair
16 have opposite polarities.

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18 34. (Amended) An improved time of flight mass spectrometer [A
19 multideflector] according to claim 31 wherein the distance
20 between adjacent bipolar deflection plates varies as a function
21 of position within the multideflector.

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1 35.(Amended) An improved time of flight mass spectrometer [A
2 multideflector] according to claim 34 wherein the bipolar
3 deflection plates are curved.

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5 36.(Amended) An improved time of flight mass spectrometer [A
6 multideflector] according to claim 23 wherein the potentials on
7 the conducting electrodes is held constant.

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9 37.(Amended) An improved time of flight mass spectrometer [A
10 multideflector] according to claim 23 wherein the potentials on
11 the conducting electrodes is varied as a function of time.

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13 38.(Amended) An improved time of flight mass spectrometer [A
14 multideflector] according to claim 32 wherein the potentials on
15 the conducting electrodes is held constant.

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17 39.(Amended) An improved time of flight mass spectrometer [A
18 multideflector] according to claim 32 wherein the potentials on
19 the conducting electrodes is varied as a function of time.

1 42. (Amended) A multideflector [An improved time of flight mass
2 spectrometer] according to claim 41 wherein the total thickness
3 of each bipolar deflector plate is in order of 0.1 mm.
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5 43. (Amended) A multideflector [An improved time of flight mass
6 spectrometer] according to claim 41 wherein the insulator
7 consists of polyamide layer.
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9 44. (Amended) A multideflector [An improved time of flight mass
10 spectrometer] according to claim 42 wherein the insulator
11 consists of polyamide layer.
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13 45. (Amended) A multideflector [An improved time of flight mass
14 spectrometer] according to claim 41 wherein the bipolar
15 deflection plates are curved.
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17 46. (Amended) A multideflector [An improved time of flight mass
18 spectrometer] according to claim 42 wherein the bipolar
19 deflection plates are curved.
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1 47. (Amended) A multideflector [An improved time of flight mass
2 spectrometer] according to claim 43 wherein the bipolar
3 deflection plates are curved.

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5 48. (Amended) A multideflector [An improved time of flight mass
6 spectrometer] according to claim 44 wherein the bipolar
7 deflection plates are curved.

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9 49. (Amended) A multideflector [An improved time of flight mass
10 spectrometer] according to claim 41 wherein the bipolar
11 deflection plates are placed adjacent and parallel to one another
12 such that each metal plate of every bipolar deflection plate is
13 facing the metal plate of the adjacent bipolar deflection plate
14 which has the opposite polarity.

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16 50. (Amended) A multideflector [An improved time of flight mass
17 spectrometer] according to claim 49 wherein the distance between
18 adjacent bipolar deflection plates is a constant.

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20 51. (Amended) A multideflector [An improved time of flight mass
21 spectrometer] according to claim 50 wherein the bipolar deflection
22 plates are curved.--

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1 employs a single electrically insulating carrier plate (See Le
2 Poole col. 7, lines 58-60). In contradistinction, claim 41 of
3 the subject application claims, *inter alia*, a multideflector
4 consisting of more than two bipolar deflection plates each
5 consisting of a pair of electrically conducting electrodes
6 energized to potentials of opposite polarities. Nowhere in Le
7 Poole is this either taught or suggested. Thus, Le Poole cannot
8 be found to anticipate claim 41 of the subject application since
9 Le Poole fails to teach each and every element claimed therein.
10 Therefore, applicant respectfully request that this rejection be
11 reconsidered and withdrawn.

12 Moreover, after careful review of the cited reference,
13 applicant fails to see how each and every element of the claimed
14 invention is disclosed therein. Consequently, applicant invites
15 the Examiner to point out how Le Poole teaches each and every
16 element of the invention claimed in claim 41.

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